

EDITORIAL

The 11th International Ornithological Congress, presided over by Sir Landsborough Thomson, London, will be held in Basel (Switzerland) from May 29 to June 5, 1954.

During the week of the Congress, 5 days will be devoted to meetings and 2 to excursions. Before and after the Congress (May 25-28 and June 7-19) excursions will be arranged to enable members to become acquainted with the Swiss avifauna, especially of the Alps and Lower Alps. The Congress fee is 30 Swiss francs.

The prospectus, containing registration forms and detailed information, has been distributed. Applications to attend, and to contribute scientific papers, should be sent in before February 28, 1954, and addressed to:

11th INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS
ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, BASEL, SWITZERLAND,

which is at disposal for any inquiries needed.

The International Committee for Bird Preservation will have its 9th International Conference at Scans, Lower Engadine, Switzerland on May 23-28, 1954. The program has been planned to permit attendance, without conflict, at both this meeting and the 11th International Ornithological Congress, announced above.

The Southwestern Association of Naturalists was formed at an organizational meeting attended by fifty-two persons at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station at Lake Texoma on May 23, 1953. As stated in the constitution, "The object of the Association shall be to promote the field study of plants and animals, living and fossil, in the southwestern United States and Mexico, and to aid the scientific activities of its members." SWAN hopes to stimulate the study of the region by bringing together persons of like interests through publication of annotated membership lists, annual meetings, and perhaps later through the publication of a journal.

The officers elected for the first year were: W. Frank Blair (Vertebrate Zoology), University of Texas, *President*; George J. Goodman (Plant Taxonomy), University of Oklahoma, *Vice-President*; Herndon G. Dowling (Herpetology), University of Arkansas, *Secretary-Treasurer*. The geographic scope of the Association at present includes Mexico and the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Persons interested in the natural history of this region are invited to join the Association. Membership blanks may be obtained from any of the officers.

Dr. Charles G. Sibley has recently taken up the duties of his new position teaching ornithology at Cornell University.

Robert M. Mengel is now at the University of Kansas where he is engaged in a bibliographic study of the Ralph M. Ellis natural history library; Mengel is also completing his study of the birds of Kentucky for the doctorate from the University of Michigan.